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AMAA

Newsletter

FROM THE GENERAL OFFICE OF THE ARMENIAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.
156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10010

VOL. VII

FEBRUARY, 1971

NO. 2

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**For an account of his life and services see
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MAKING THE TRIUMPH OF THE MARTYRS OUR OWN

(The Rev. M. P. Krikorian, orator, author, minister and whom this editor lovingly and respectfully calls 'My Bishop' has sent a message to our office with his one thousand dollar gift. His message lays the Christian foundation for any fund-raising

Campaign. We quote the following selections from his letter of Sept. 22, 1969).

"The story of Armenia and its Christian faith is worth telling! For romance, for magnificent courage and endurance, for resolute trust in the living God, and unflinching loyalty to Jesus Christ, no Church in Christendom can equal, much less surpass it. It is the story of a Christian people's martyrdom, of steady age-long resistance, of a never absent temptation to deny the Lord who purchased them with His own life-blood. For seventeen centuries, at least, it has been that or the alternative of a life of indescribable misery and woe! Surely such amply-documented and soul-gripping a story must be worth the telling with new vigor for the glory of God. Surely the high and holy cause for which they made the supreme sacrifice must be worth supporting most fervently as one of today's demands, doctrines and concerns through the 50th Anniversary Crusade and vigorous concerted movement. But something more is required of us. What is required of us is such a crusading zeal and imagination and daring as were the hallmarks of our own proud Armenians, of Ararat of Avarair, of Musa Dagh, of Der-el-Zor, of Zeitun and Aintab. It may be that as we study the long chronicle of history and consider the injustices, the hopes, the betrayals, suffering and tortures endured; our hearts will burn anew within us, that we shall experience an unaccustomed glow for our faith that our own love and loyalty will be strengthened. May there be formed within us a solemn purpose that we will in our own exciting Atomic Age with its horizon of horrors in a potentially violent and explosive world that try man's soul, emulate the undaunted courage, invincible spirit and unquenchable faith and fire of the noble army of the Armenian 'men and boys, the matron and the maid' who for His sake, age after age, endured even unto death, but never gave one foot nor for one moment played the part of apostate!

".....so the spirit of divinity in the Armenian devotees soared above persecution, peril and pain and 'climbed the steep ascent of heaven' where their consuming pain God tempered into a pallet of refreshing rest.....In the companionship of such illustrious confessors, not only heaven rejoices, but the Church of Christ is adorned.

"Let us then against the backdrop of Eternity make the majesty of their stupendous triumph our own."

GIVERS OR TAKERS?

(We are pleased to record below a timely sermon summary from the pen of the Reverend Vartkes Kassouny, taken from the weekly publication of his Church)

"I'd rather be a hammer than a nail.." So goes a line in a song currently made popular by Simon and

Garfunkel. It is the statement of purpose, expressing the dignity of a life lived in giving.

The Bible puts it this way: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Christian action is life-giving in its effects, and we are called to be such life-bringers in the name of Christ to a world in the grips of death!

How tragic, however, that so many Christians have never outgrown the taking stage. Like a child who hangs on to his milk-bottle way past his natural years when he needs that bottle, we hang on to the church merely to receive from it what we claim we still need. We invest in the church merely to get back what we feel we need to feel secure and happy. But true maturity is evidenced in the willingness and ability to invest in the mission of the church which will give life to those not in our own immediate circle. To give because we have the love of God in our hearts which includes the whole world in it!

There are two kinds of people: takers and givers. Which one are we?

VITAL CHILD EVANGELISM

Mrs. Hasmig (Donabedian) Collier is providing a unique Child Evangelism program for the underprivileged. This Evangelism is given through the medium of Sunday Schools, of which, she has several in several localities. Often, in the summers, it is provided in outdoor sessions.

Mrs. Collier has reported excellent results with her pupils, of whom, dozens have come to the saving knowledge of Christ.

The AMAA has provided a substantial sum of money in its fiscal budget for Mrs. Collier's Child Evangelism endeavors. But, the continuance of the allotment for her work will depend upon the contributions the AMAA receives towards this vital evangelism program



A GROUP OF MRS. COLLIER'S SUNDAY SCHOOL PUPILS

We appeal, therefore, to those spiritually-minded who believe in this vital ministry to rush their sacrificial contributions. It is out of these little children

On completion and dedication of the building, Mr. Haroutune Kalayan informs our office, the donor's bust was placed in the building in appreciation and gratefulness for Mr. Philibosian's endeavors on behalf of the Armenian people.

QUEEN ELIZABETH CONFERS THE O.B.E. UPON DR. MANUGIAN

According to a London Times announcement, Queen Elizabeth of England has conferred the Order of the British Empire upon Psychiatrist Dr. Antranig Manugian. Such nominations, considered a high honor, are made according to lists prepared by British embassies around the world.

The American University, where Dr. Manugian is clinical professor of psychiatry, announced that the doctor has been appointed a member of "The Rehabilitation International Medical Commission" - an advisory body to the Council of the International Society for Rehabilitation of the Disabled.

Dr. Manugian's nomination to the Order came as result of his continuous humanitarian efforts on behalf of the mentally disturbed in Lebanon.

The Association is happy and warmly congratulates Dr. Manugian not only because he is perhaps the first Armenian to receive the O.B.E., but because he is the Chairman both of the AMAA Representative Committee in Beirut as well as that of the Fiftieth Anniversary Campaign Committee of the AMAA.

MIAMI CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Mrs. Victoria Fredericks, advisor to the AMAA Miami Chapter, has sent the following report. As a new and recently established chapter, the members are excited about their role of serving Armenians through AMAA.

The second annual AMAA dinner in Miami was held February 7, 1970 in the Parish Hall of the St. John Baptist Armenian Church.

Mr. George Berberian, Executive Advisor, was Master of Ceremonies and our Guest Speaker was Rev. G. Chopourian, Executive Secretary of AMAA.

The Dinner began with a prayer by the Rev. Ohan Abaklian, and delicious Roast Beef and Lahmejoun Dinner was served to some 255 people. The food was prepared and served by Mrs. Mary Koshgarian, chairman, and her co-officers and friends.

The evening's program began by Rev. Chopourian showing slides of many Middle East countries, and narrating on the conditions existing before and after improvements made by the AMAA.

Dr. Muradian, prominent medical doctor in Miami, made an inspiring speech about AMAA's accomplishments: reaching the poor, lost children; supporting the Haigazian College in Beirut; and modernizing church and school buildings. We, as Armenians should be proud to contribute to such a worthy organization which stretches its arms around the world, helping our Armenian people wherever they happen to be.

The program continued with Music.

Mrs. Meline Markarian, well-known accomplished singer in Miami and her husband, Dr. Berge Markarian with their two talented sons sang Armenian songs.

Mr. Audrey Pilafian, mother and schoolteacher, played cello solo.

Miss Violet Vagramian, accomplished pianist and teacher of Music in University of Miami, played piano solo.

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Last June Prof. Daniel Wosgian was pinned with the Lebanese Medal of Knighthood by the representative of the Education and Justice Department of the Lebanese Government. This recognition was bestowed upon him as a result of engagement in productive educational work for more than forty years.

Serious, industrious, persevering and wise in his word and work, Dr. Wosgian has brought his active participation in many of the nation's important organizations. He served as Principal of Melkonian College for many years and his last important contribution



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We wait in prayer!

PROFESSOR HAROUTUNE KALAYAN

Prof. Haroutune Kalayan, Associate Professor of Civil Engineering at the American University of Beirut, has a number of publications which we proudly present to the American-Armenian public. These are:

- L'Habitation au Liban, Vols. 1 & 2 (Provides the evolution of ancient habitations in Lebanon)
- Rapport Preliminaire sur les Travaux de Reconnaissance du Site de Maschnaka
- A New Outlook into the History of Architecture through the Tools Used as Schools of Masonry

We congratulate Prof. Kalayan for his contribution to ancient monuments and their history. We are specially proud that an Armenian is so highly placed both at the A. U. B. and with the Lebanese Government.

A FIRST FOR THE A.M.A.A. EDUCATIONAL MISSIONARY COMMISSIONED

A special "Commissioning Service" was held for Arpine Mahshigian on Dec. 6, at the United Armenian Congregational Church of Hollywood. Miss Mahshigian was commissioned as a church worker in Tehran, Iran, where she will work with the Armenian Evangelical Church and School. Tehran, the capital city of Iran, has an estimated Armenian population of over 150,000. Miss Mahshigian is being sent under the auspices of the Armenian Missionary Association of America and the Armenian Evangelical Unions of California and the Eastern States. Miss Mahshigian is a member of the United Armenian Congregational Church where she taught in the church school. Born in Kessab, Syria, Miss Mahshigian was educated in local Armenian Evangelical Schools, and holds degrees from the American University of Beirut and the Near East School of Theology. She also has furthered her studies here in the States at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Miss Mahshigian reached Tehran on January 16th where she was received and welcomed by the Khachadourians. She has commenced work immediately and has reported as follows:



MISS ARPINE MAHSHIGIAN

1. Twice a week she is in charge of the morning worship service in the Kohar Mesrobian Elementary School in Tehran - a school with an enrollment of 200 students.
2. She has started a Junior Girls' Christian Endeavor Society with eleven members.
3. She has also organized a Christian Endeavor Society and Bible Study Group for High School students.
4. She is in charge of a class of 38 Sunday School children.
5. In one of the poorest sections of Tehran where there are 30,000 Armenians, namely Nermek, where she goes on Friday mornings, she has laid the foundation for a Sunday School. Fifteen children attend the Sunday School in a rented room where evangelical worship services are also held. "They enjoy," she writes, "hearing the word of God and are thirsty for it... There is great need for youth and social work in this section of the town."

Her immediate needs for her Christian ministry are these:

1. Flannelgraph materials of Bible stories.
2. Bible story pictures.

This is a first in the life of the AMAA and the success of this missionary endeavor will depend upon the generosity of Armenians everywhere. May we hear from you?

STEPHEN PHILIBOSIAN GIFT OF A PARSONAGE TO THE CHURCH IN AINJAR

To his many charitable contributions Mr. Stephen Philibosian has added another important one. He has contributed the total cost of a two-story Parsonage as a gift to the Armenian Evangelical Church in Ainjar.



TWO-STORY PARSONAGE IN AINJAR

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